

2019 Legislative Session

Summary of K-12 Legislation, Rules, and Appropriations

To review all House and Senate legislation, including appropriations bills from the 2019 legislative session, visit <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation>.

To review 2019 rule changes, visit https://adminrules.idaho.gov/legislative_books/2019 and go to the Education Links for the Education Committees.

Legislation Enacted

Continuous Improvement Plans

[SB1057](#)

Simplifies the continuous improvement plans (CIP) and eliminates duplicate reporting. Reporting of individual metrics are no longer required in lieu of a link to the district's state report card. Districts are still required to report progress toward the previous year's goals separately in the CIP.

Charter Schools Administrator Certificate

[SB1058](#)

Creates a new charter school administrator certificate as an alternative to traditional administrator certificates. Administrators would be eligible for a charter school administrator certificate if they hold a bachelor's degree, pass a criminal background check, receive training on teacher evaluations, demonstrate a charter school board of directors seeks to hire them and commits to overseeing their work, and have a minimum amount of professional experience.

Mastery-based Education Network

[SB1059](#)

Lifts the cap on the mastery-based incubators and updates the statute to formalize the Idaho Mastery Education Network. SDE staff is planning now for how to accommodate additional districts and schools who wish to join the mastery education network.

School Flexibility and Early Graduation

[SB1060](#)

Provides students who demonstrate basic skills to be "college and career ready" with flexibility in their schedules; the ability to freely take post-secondary classes; or to receive their accredited diploma and opt out of high school to further their educational or career goals.

Teacher Professional Development Credits

[SB1104](#)

Allows those who are teaching courses that count toward teacher certification renewal to receive credit for those courses for their own certification renewal.

Career Technical Education, Advanced Opportunities [SB1105](#)
Provides opportunities for high school students to take Career Technical courses that lead to industry certifications if these courses are not offered in their high school, e.g. apprenticeships.

Charter schools Career Technical Education [SB1106](#)
Clarifies that virtual CTE programs may be authorized by Division of CTE, regardless of instructional delivery method (e.g. virtual) if they meet the same quality requirements and demonstrate compliance with the Idaho CTE initiative.

School Bus Stop Fines [SB1131](#)
Increases the fines for drivers who ignore school buses stopped on the road to load and unload riders to \$200 for the first offense, \$400 for a second offense and \$600 for a third offense.

Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Bonds [SB1180](#)
Creates a credit enhancement for seasoned, stable public charter schools to obtain lower interest rates on bonds. The bill does not create a legal obligation for the state. The bill calls for a separate fund in the state treasury to create a backstop for any potential missed payments.

Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Programs [HB93](#)
Allows school districts to enter into agreements with nontraditional teacher preparation programs to help recruit, select, train and retain teachers for hard-to-fill positions and provides state funding if matching private dollars are raised. The funding pays for up to 25% of the teacher's annual salary for each year the program provides services to that teacher. Funding is limited to two academic years per teacher. The program must match 100% of any cost to the state for implementation.

School Boards Executive Sessions [HB150](#)
Allows school boards to address time-sensitive or emergency circumstances that fall under an Executive Session category – such as personnel issues – on a simple majority vote in the event of two vacancies.

Career Ladder – Starting Teacher Pay [HB153](#)
Increases starting teacher pay to \$40,000 over a two-year period. The bill also includes clarifying language on how the professional rung cells collapse from ten cells to five cells.

Threats to Schools [HB209](#)
Imposes a misdemeanor charge for threats of violence directed at schools, school venues, school buses, school staff and/or students to include electronic means. This has been signed by the Governor.

Schools as Polling Places

[HB270](#)

Ensures that public schools are available as polling locations on Election Day. There is a delayed effective date to July 2020 in order to ensure adequate time for county clerks and school districts to make any adjustments needed as a result of this legislation.

Funding Formula – Definitions and Data Reporting

[HB293](#)

Defines terms including “enrollment,” economically disadvantaged, at-risk, special education, English language learner, local salary schedule
Contains reporting requirements necessary to provide more accuracy and predictability in a new student-centered formula.

Requires significant rulemaking by the SBOE. SDE staff will participate in that process and encourages all stakeholders to participate.

Appropriation Bills – Public schools:

Administrators Division

[H0219](#)

Teachers Division

[H0220](#)

Operations Division

[H0221](#)

Children’s Programs

[H0222](#)

Facilities Division

[H0223](#)

Central Services

[H0224](#)

Deaf/blind Services

[H0225](#)

Supt. of Public Instruction

[H0232](#)

Public Education Stabilization Fund

[H0281](#)

Teachers Division (career ladder trailer)

[H0286](#)

Supt. of Public Instruction (TFA trailer)

[H0291](#)

STEM Action Center

[H0215](#)

Administrative Rules

08-0202-1801 – PSC revisions. Educator preparation standards and the corresponding endorsements were made for English Language Arts, Teachers of Gifted and Talented Students, Literacy Teachers, Online Teachers, Teacher Leaders, Teacher Librarian, and School Nurse, to make sure best practices and current Idaho education standards are embedded in each of these education preparation areas.

08-0203-1801 – Special Education Manual. Rule incorporated by reference the most recent version of the Idaho Special Education Manual, which was adopted by the State Board of

Education on June 20, 2018. Changes to the manual were made to conform to state and federal law.

08-0203-1803 – High School Graduation Requirements. This rule exempts high school students who have completed 8 or more credits in mathematics, and who have completed Algebra II or a higher-level mathematics class, from having to take a mathematics class during their senior year. Technical corrections and clarifying language were added. Math in the senior year, unless expressly exempted, and the senior project were retained.

08-0203-1805 – Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) removed references used to measure the progress and proficiency of Idaho’s limited English proficient students under No Child Left Behind. AMAOs were eliminated with the passage of the Every Student’s Succeeds Act (ESSA).

2020 Legislative Session

What’s Ahead for Next Year

Keep Idaho Students Safe

The Superintendent will continue to advocate for strengthening efforts to improve school safety and to build on the work Idaho has currently underway to address bullying, suicide prevention and substance abuse. Efforts moving forward will focus on providing training and resources to educators and staff on addressing with students’ social and emotional issues.

Governor’s Task Force – Our Kids, Idaho’s Future

Supt. Ybarra and SDE staff will support and participate in this important conversation about how to continue to improve education in Idaho.

New Public School Funding Formula

There will be continued discussion of a new student-based funding formula for Idaho schools. The Supt. and SDE staff will participate in these discussions and provide data and information to the Legislature as requested.

Administrative Rules Review

The Legislature’s failure to pass the bill to extend administrative rules through fiscal year 2020 will be a challenge. While the Division of Financial Management has said the Governor will reinstate existing rules as temporary rules, we are still waiting for additional guidance about how agencies will be expected to address these temporary rules in the Legislature’s rules review process in the 2020 session.

Upcoming Administrative Rules for 2020:

08-0202-1901 – Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training. This new rule is the result of Section 33-316, Idaho Code, which directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules supporting suicide awareness and prevention training each year for public school personnel.

08-0202-1902 – Professional Standards Commission Revisions. This rule is, in large part, the result of standards reviews conducted by the Department’s division of Certification and Professional Standards. Amendments include revisions to certification and endorsement language for Exceptional Child Generalist, Blind and Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blended Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education, School Psychologist, School Counselor, and School Social Worker, to increase clarity and to reflect best practices and current vocabulary. Other amendments include revisions to Alternative Authorization to Endorsement and Alternate Routes to Certification, to ensure clarity and reflect best practices.

08-02-02-004 – Extended Content Standards. The state adopted new science content standards in 2018. This rule will remove the incorporated document The Idaho Extended Content Standards and add a new incorporated document to the Idaho Content Standards Core Content Connectors, Science, for the students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

08-02-03-111-06 – Science Assessment. With the adoption of new science content standards, the state is developing a new science assessment aligned to these standards. The comprehensive assessment program will be updated to reflect the new assessment administered once in elementary grade spans (3-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-12).

Recruiting for Bias and Sensitivity Committee

The State Department of Education is currently recruiting individuals to serve on the committee to review new assessment items for the Idaho Standards Achievement Test and the new comprehensive science assessment. Anyone who is interested should contact Karlynn Laraway, Director of Assessment & Accountability, Phone: (208) 332-6976 | klaraway@sde.idaho.gov

Questions:

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